

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 18-30, as follows:

External site 80, also referred to as external exchange 80, is coupled to system 5 through mirror ELF 50 which ensures that two files or appropriately designated subsets thereof remain synchronized, one file being at external site 80 and the other being at system 5. In FIG. 1, exchange 80 is shown as including mirror link adapter program 85, which serves to translate between formats and protocols used at exchange 80 and in mirror ELF 50. As discussed below, only a limited set of messages are used to communicate with exchange 80, and mirror link adapter program 85 need only translate the limited set of messages to the internal protocol of exchange 80. It is assumed that all relevant orders arriving at external exchange 80 are passed through mirror link adapter 85 so that these orders can also be represented in system 5. Order umpire program 30 is coupled to exchange 80 through mirror ELF program 50 that serves to pass messages between exchange 80 and umpire 30. Order umpire program 30 is also connected to external point 90, for reporting trades as appropriate, to an external point not coupled via a mirror ELF, through dE 55.

Amend the paragraphs at page 11, line 19 to page 20, line 6, as follows:

Mirror ELF (mE) programs couple an order umpire with an external point, such as external site 80, or with another order umpire on system 5. A mE is also referred to as a representation process. In a generally symmetric manner, when an order is represented at oU 30 and at exchange 80, before acting upon the order, oU 30 first checks with exchange 80, and after exchange 80 confirms, oU 30 takes its action. As explained in detail below, oU 30 must ensure that exchange 80 will not act upon the order while oU 30 does so; accordingly, a mirror ELF is a conduit for cancel and post actions, but not execution actions. The mirror ELF also transmits

commands between oU 30 and external exchange 80 with respect to entering fast symbol mode (defined below), re-synchronizing the books when fast symbol mode is finished, and ending fast symbol mode. A symmetrical situation exists with respect to exchange 80 acting upon the order, and entering and leaving fast symbol mode.

Fast symbol mode is sometimes referred to herein as fast mode. Fast symbol mode is entered when a market such as oU 30 or external exchange 80 will no longer support a two-phase commit process prior to pairing of orders and will assume all posted orders are available for immediate execution. The only actions supported in fast symbol mode are post, cancel, and execute. If external exchange 80, for example, entered fast symbol mode, oU 30 acts as an input station, forwarding any order it receives from any ELF directly to the mirror ELF for transmission to external exchange 80. For any symbol, at most one of the markets coupled to mE 50 can be in fast symbol mode. During fast symbol mode, an umpire may provide reduced discovery or no discovery.